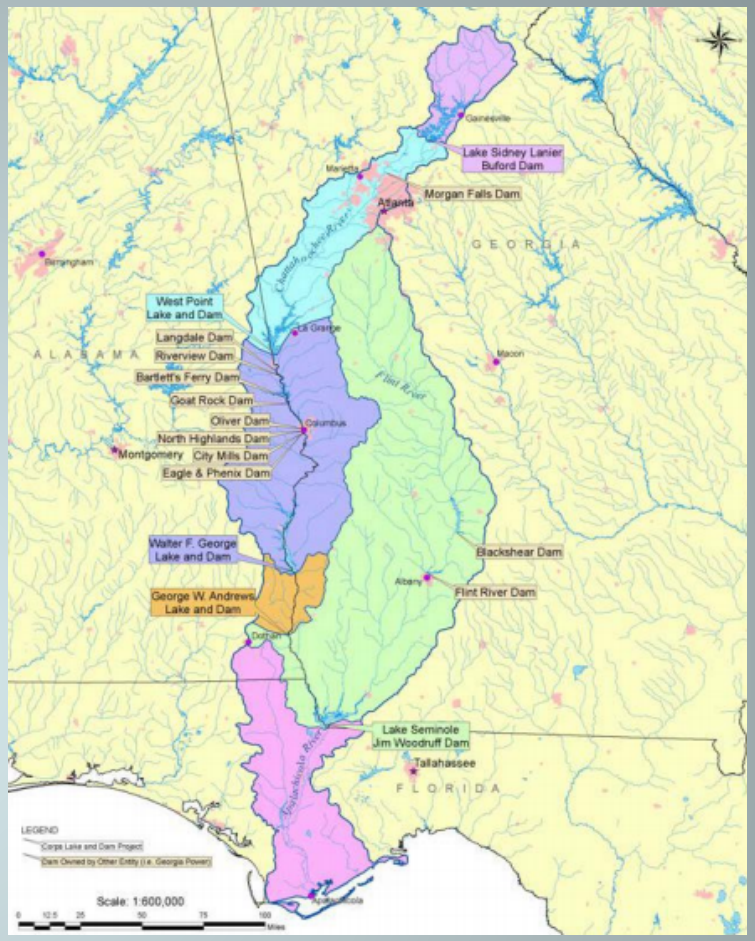
Climate and Drought Status & Seasonal Outlooks



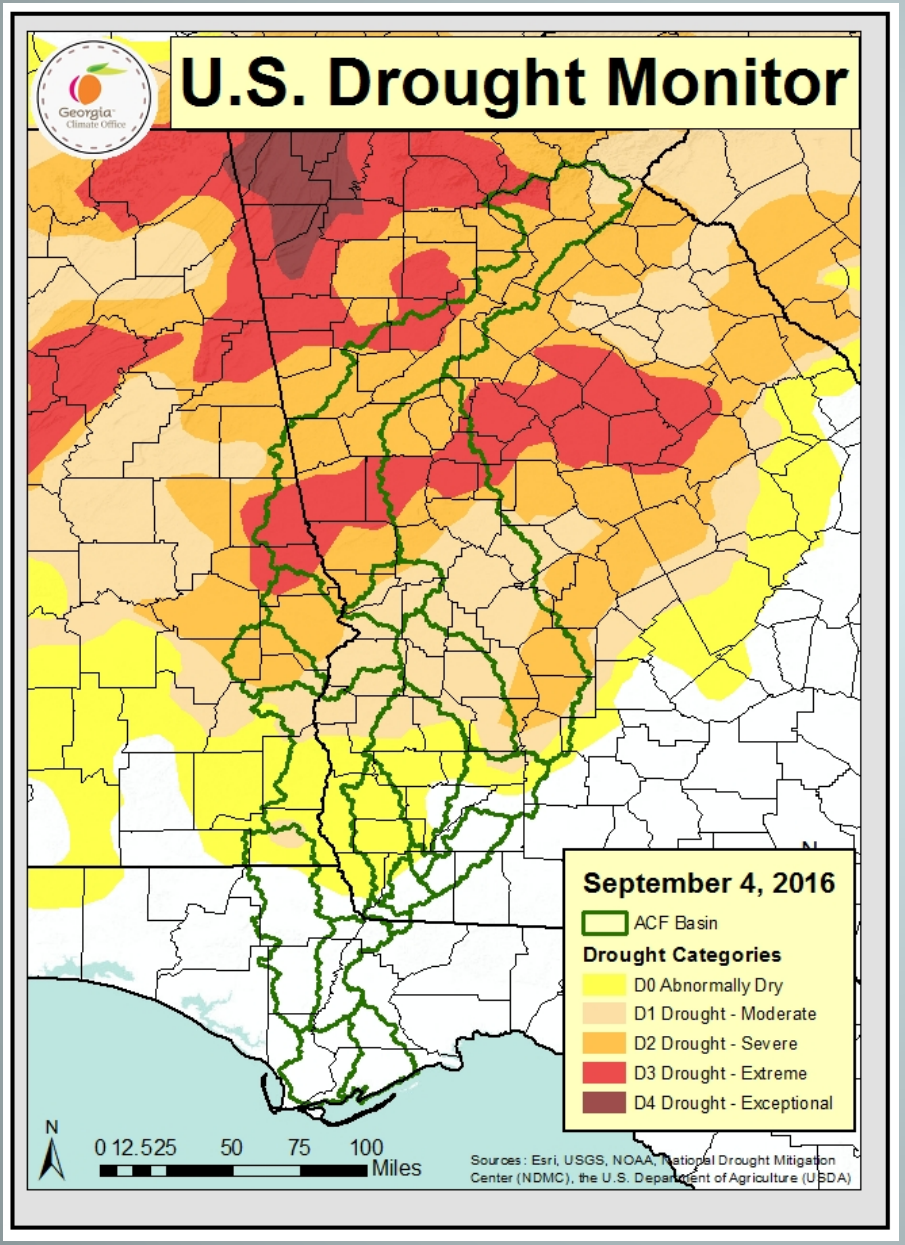
Bill Murphey, State Climatologist of Georgia

Nyasha Dunkley, Deputy State Climatologist

Lauren Lindsey, Service Climatologist

epd.ga.gov/office-state-climatologist

Current Drought Status

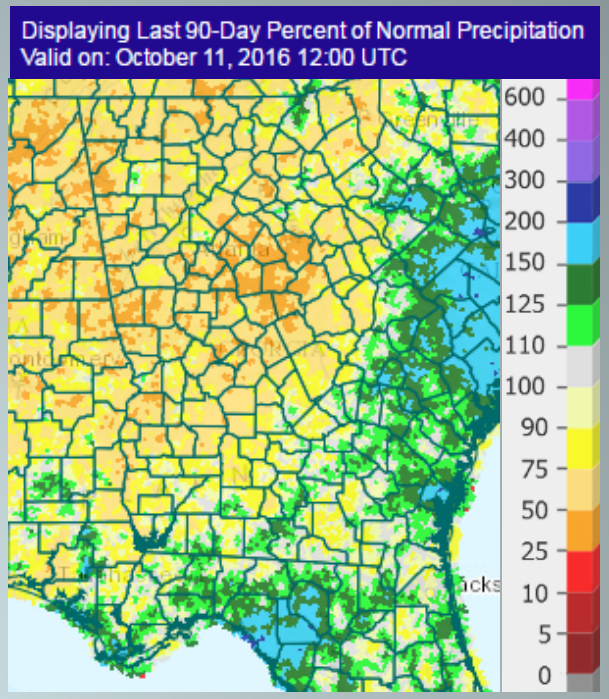


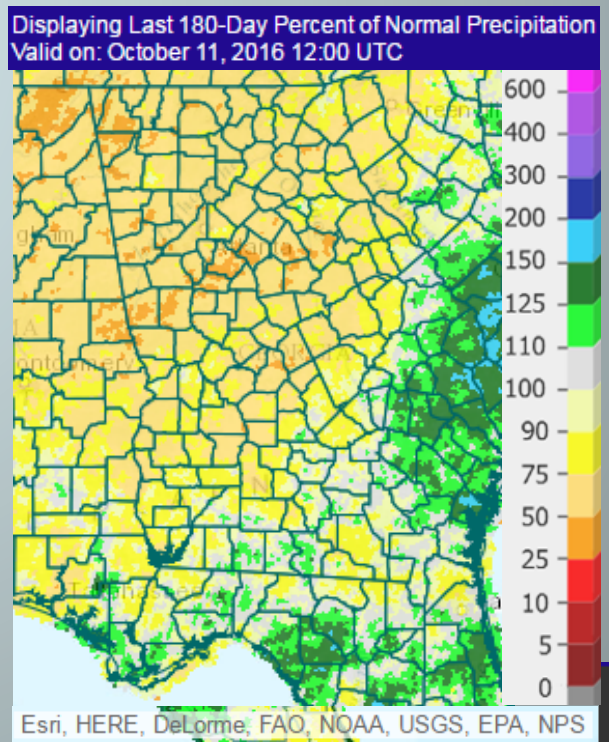
Week	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current 2016-10-04	61.30	13.24	12.31	8.46	4.21	0.48
Last Week 2016-09-27	50.04	27.45	11.90	6.46	3.82	0.32
3 Months Ago 2016-07-05	71.91	9.77	7.48	8.80	2.04	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 2015-12-29	95.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 2016-09-27	50.04	27.45	11.90	6.46	3.82	0.32
One Year Ago 2015-10-06	80.39	14.75	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00

Estimated Population in Drought Areas: **13,310,253**

The Drought Story

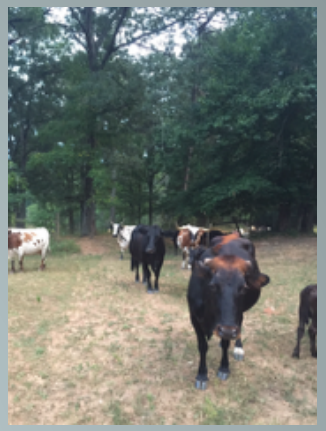
- Two core drought areas
  - The NE Alabama, NW Georgia, and southern Tennessee drought began in March (8 months ago)
  - East central GA has seen rapidly degrading conditions in the past 3 months
- Entire northern half of GA saw below normal rainfall in June and July
- Persistent heat
- Very spotty relief in August
- Extreme northwest and northeast saw large deficits in September

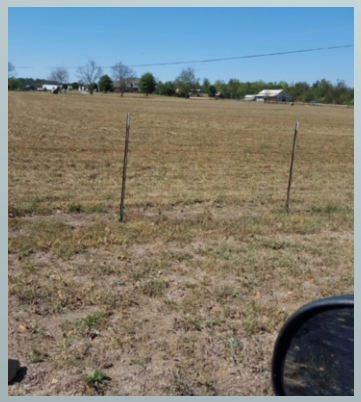


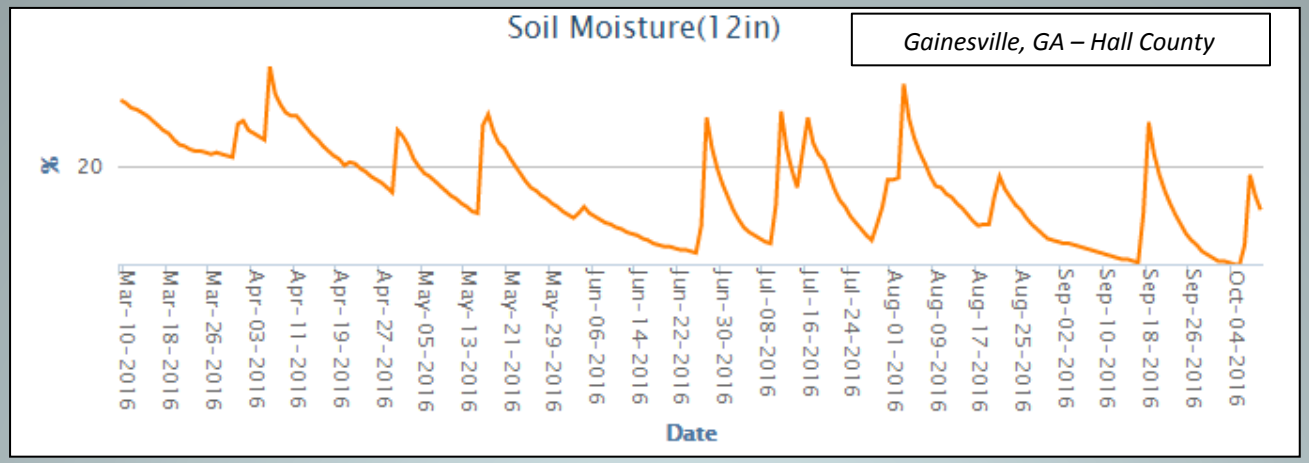


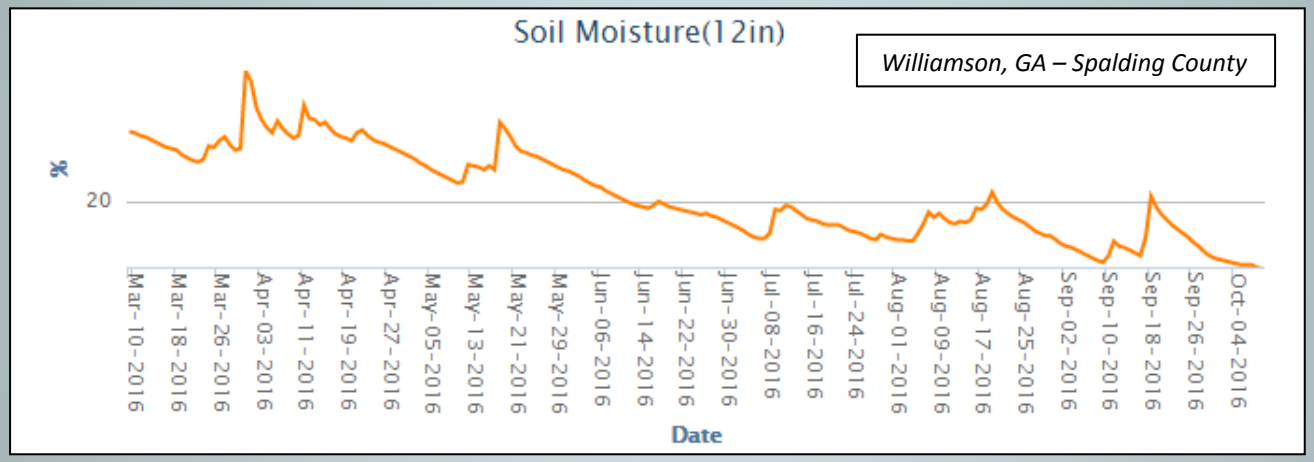
Agricultural Drought

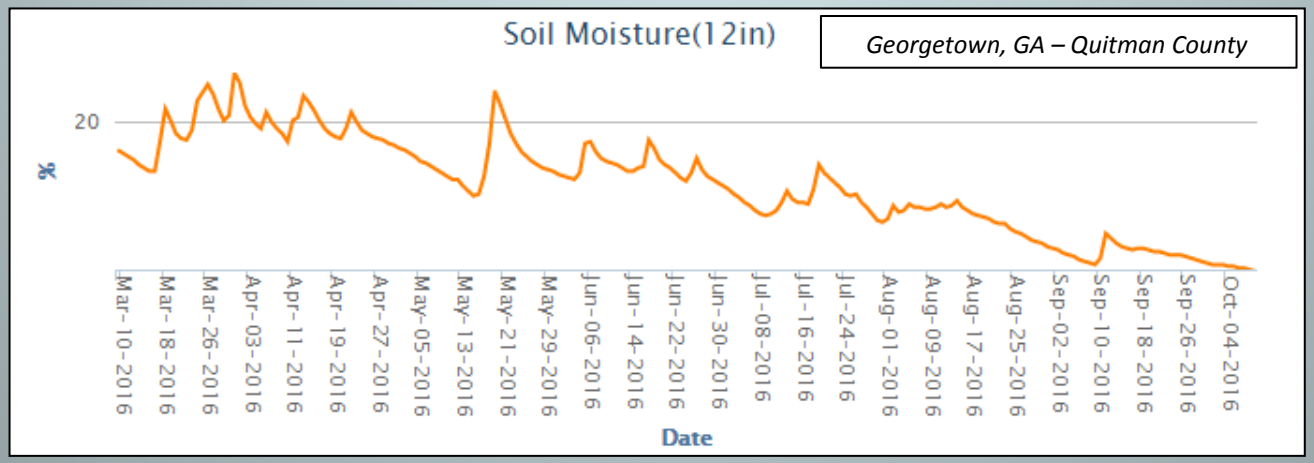
- Extremely dry pastures
- No second cutting of hay, brought in from out-of-state
- Entire corn crop lost, fed to livestock
- Ribs showing on lactating cows
- Not just the D3 areas









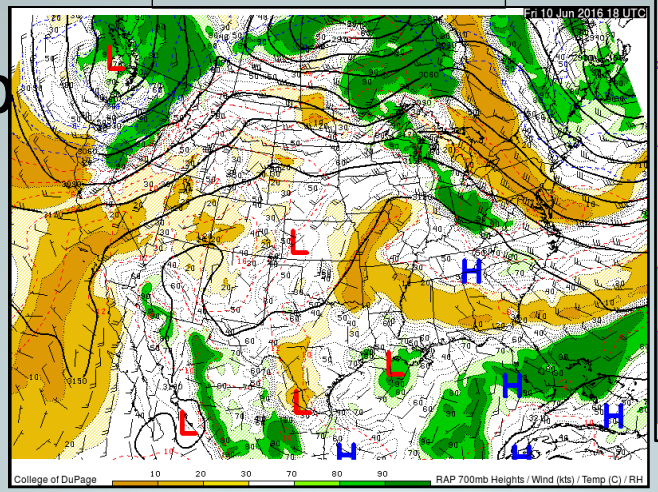


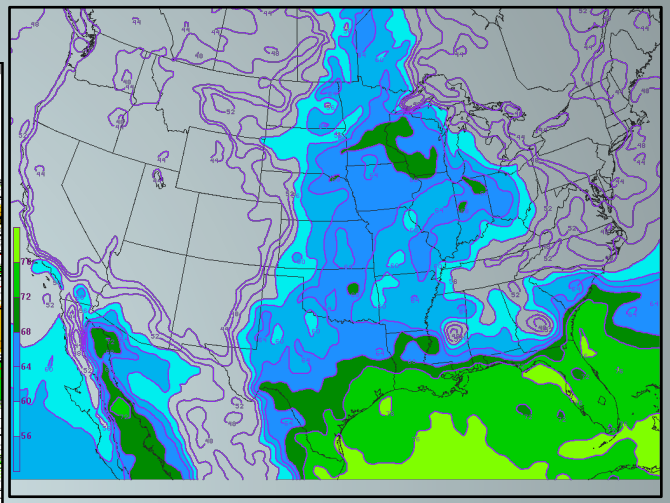
source: weather.uga.edu

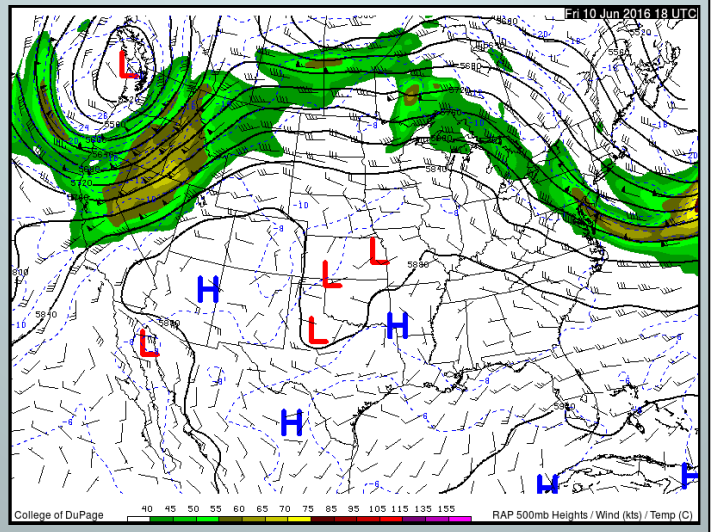
A Hot and Dry Summer

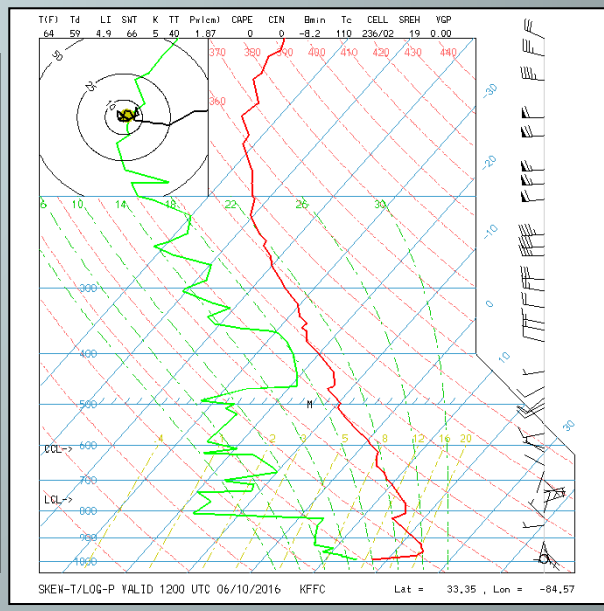
- Blocking pattern set up for much of June-July
- Strong upper level ridge
- DRY air (code red AQ day)
- Hermine and Matthew affect coastal and south GA

June 10th

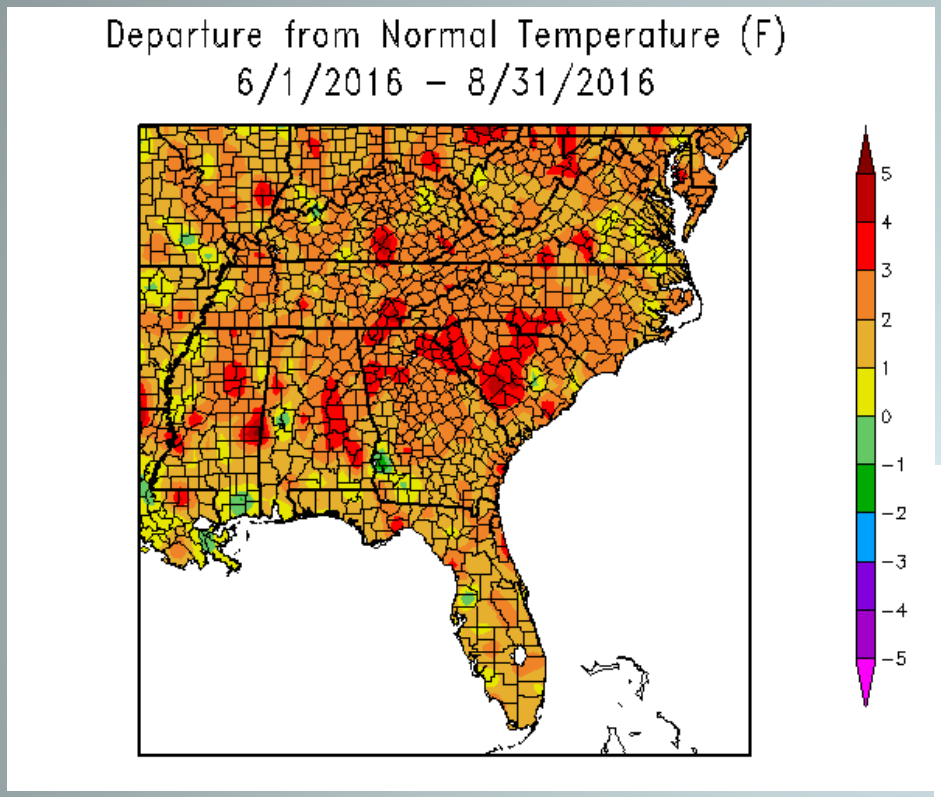


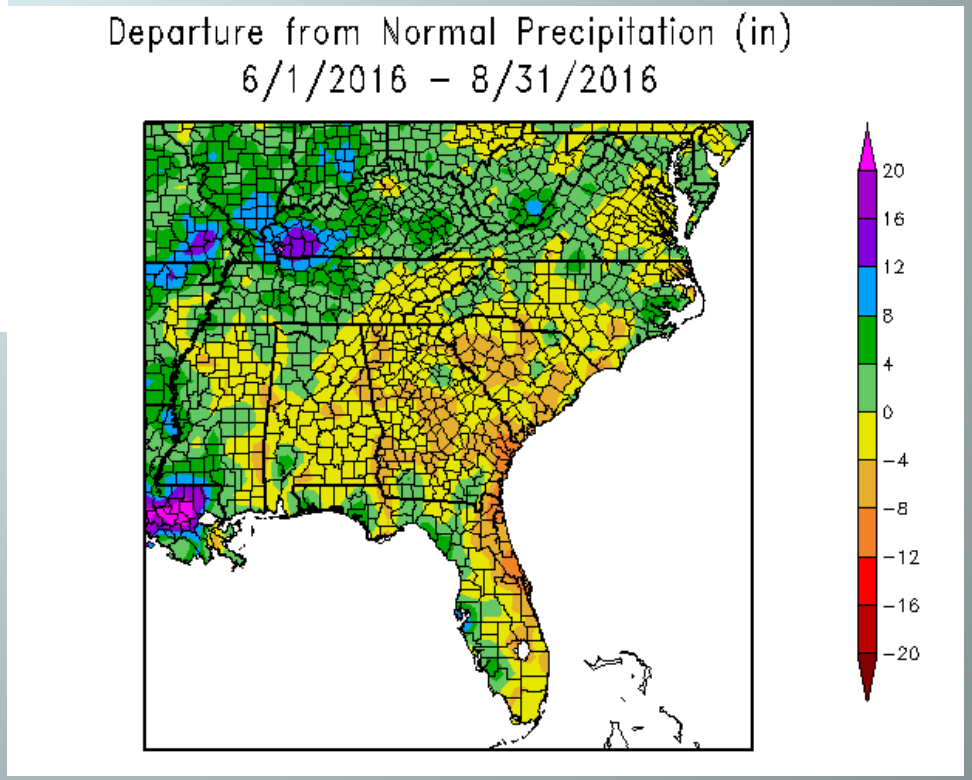




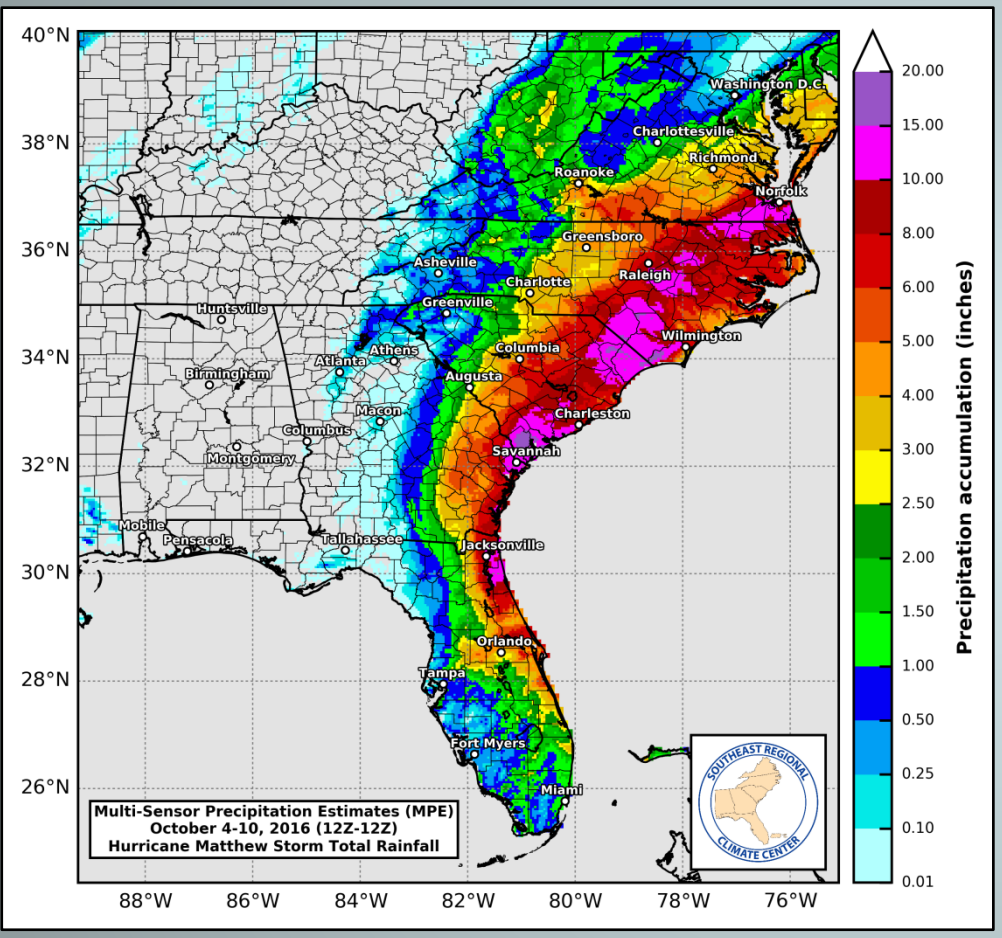


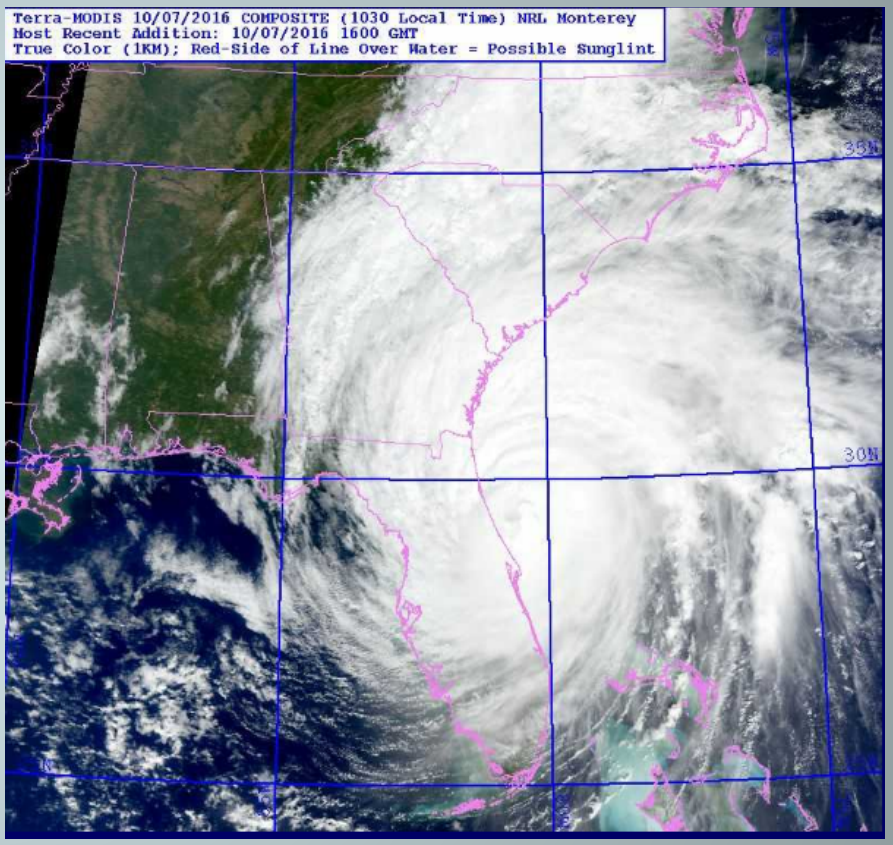
A Hot and Dry Summer





Hurricane Matthew

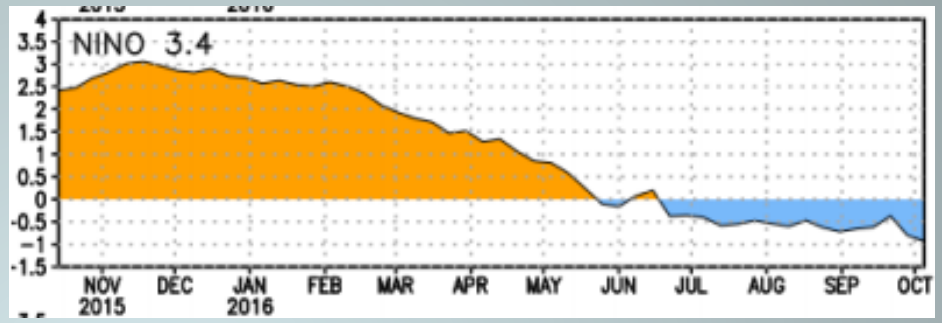


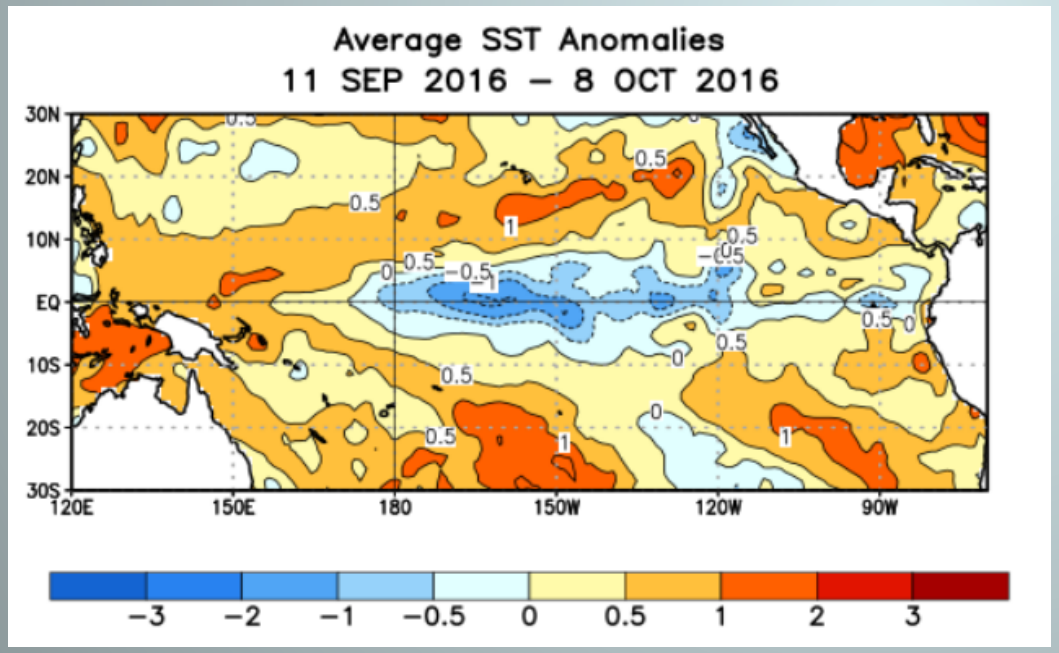


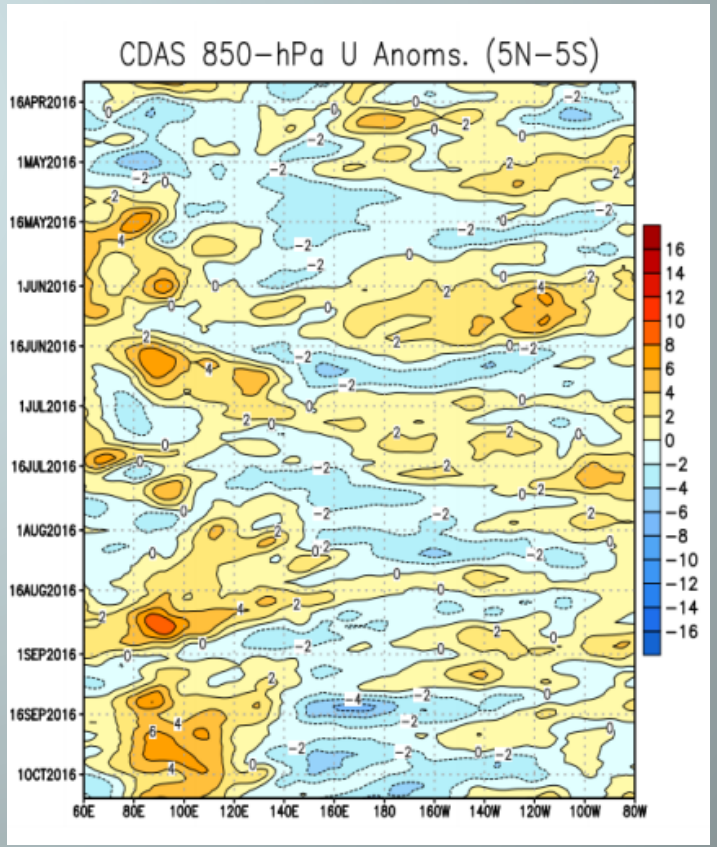
ENSO Status

The latest weekly SST departures are:

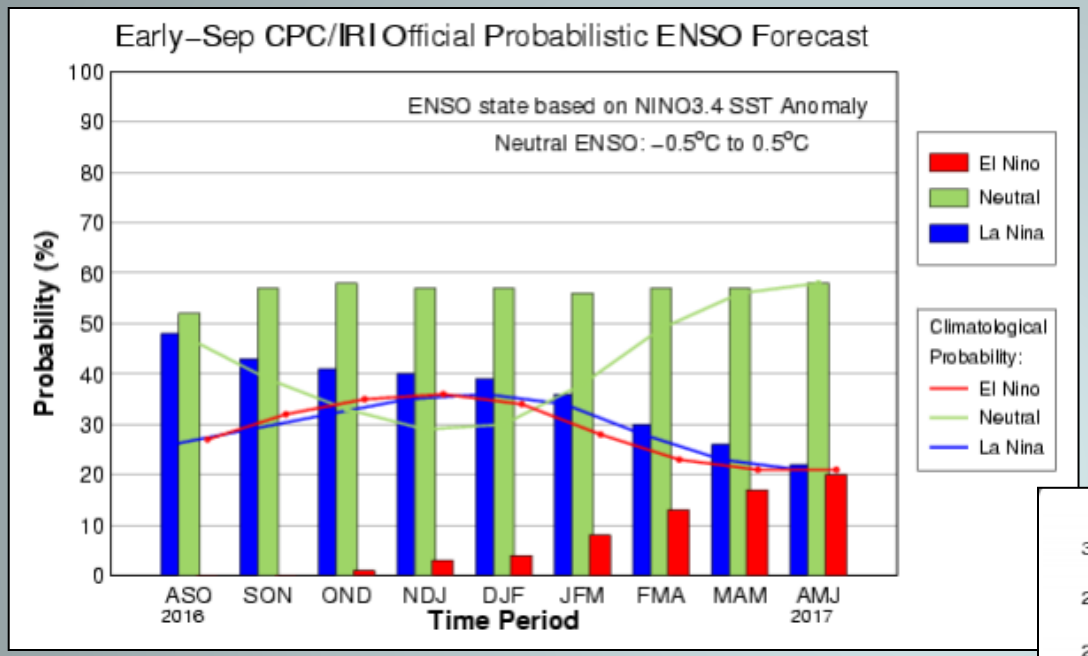
Niño 4	-0.6°C
Niño 3.4	-0.9°C
Niño 3	-0.6°C
Niño 1+2	0.1°C

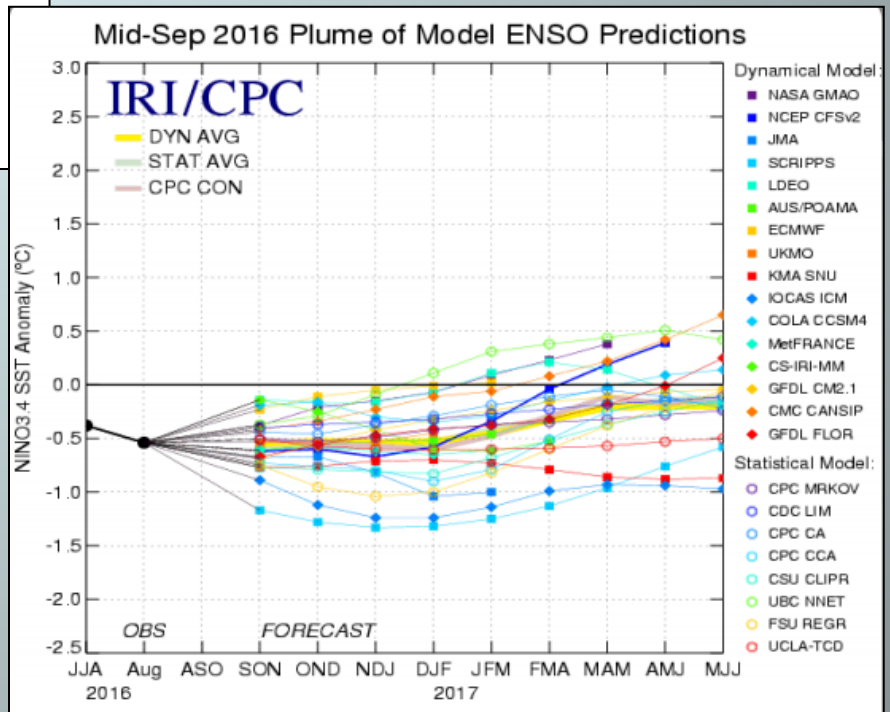




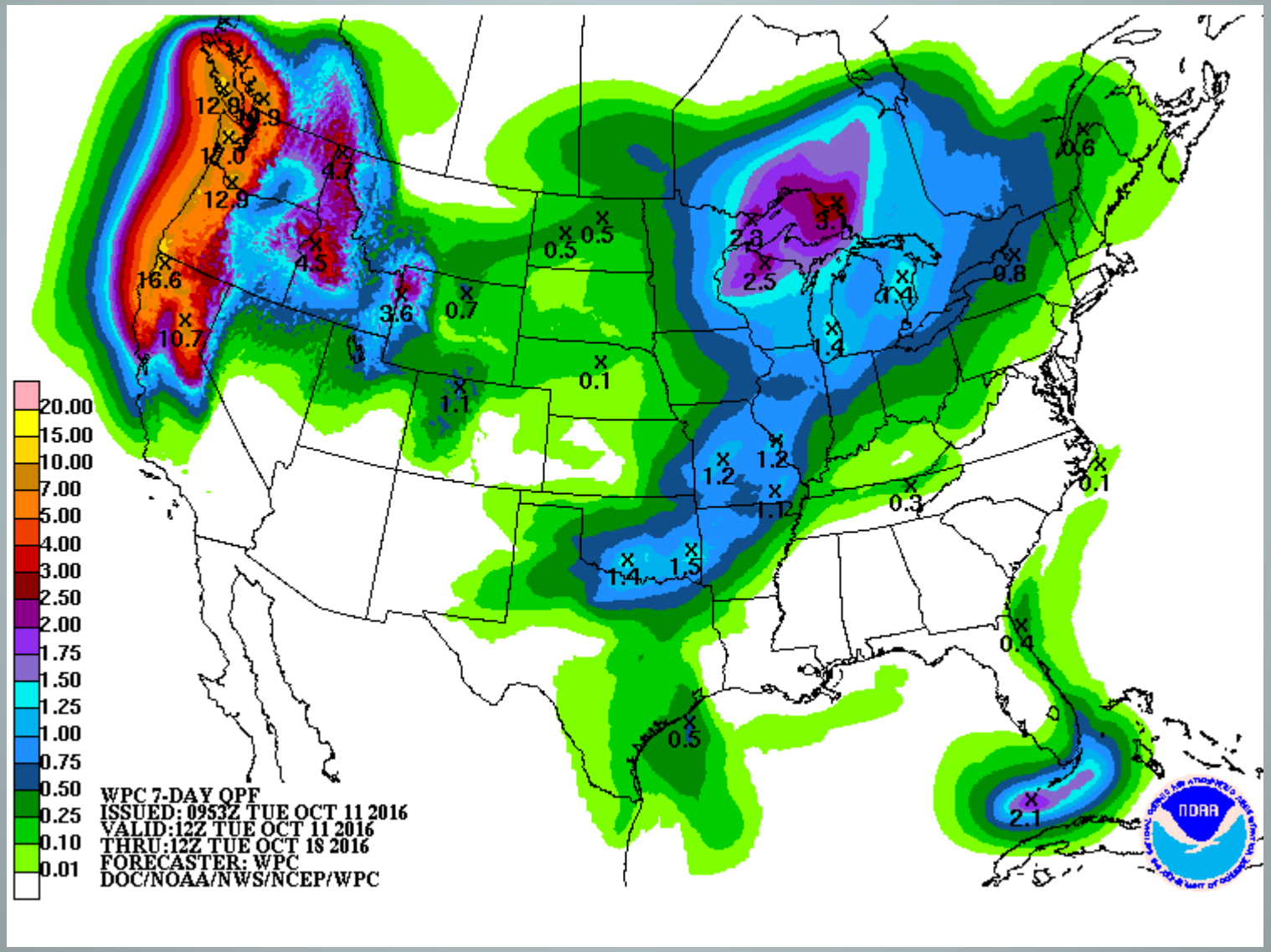


ENSO Outlooks

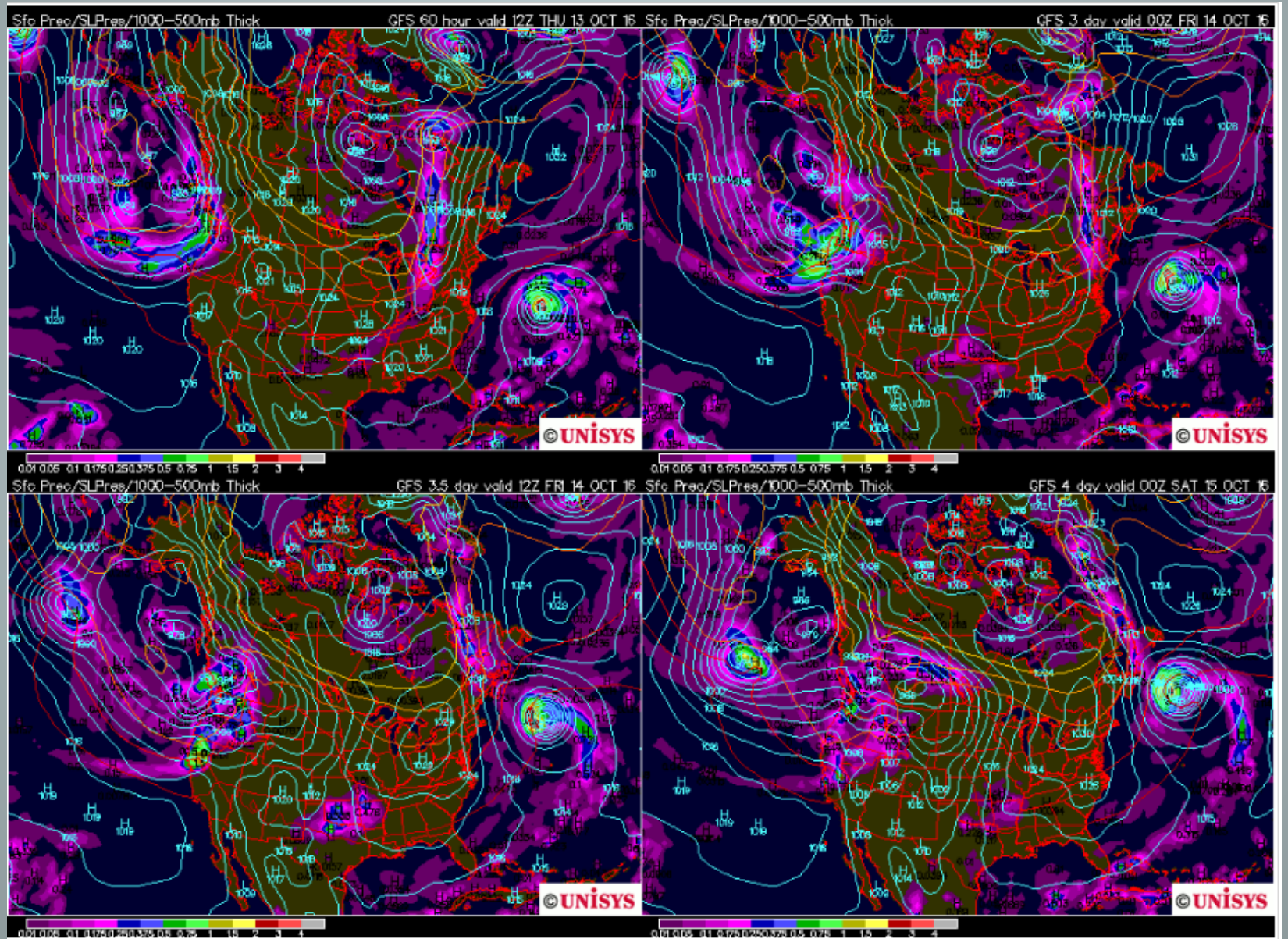




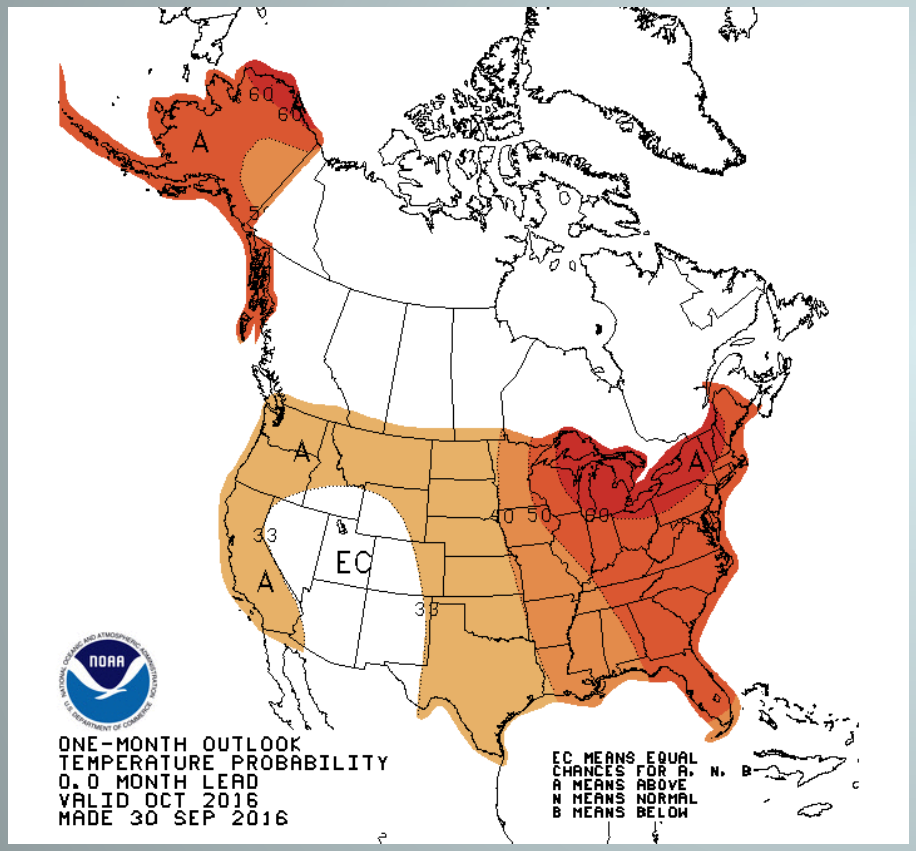
7-Day WPC Precipitation Forecast

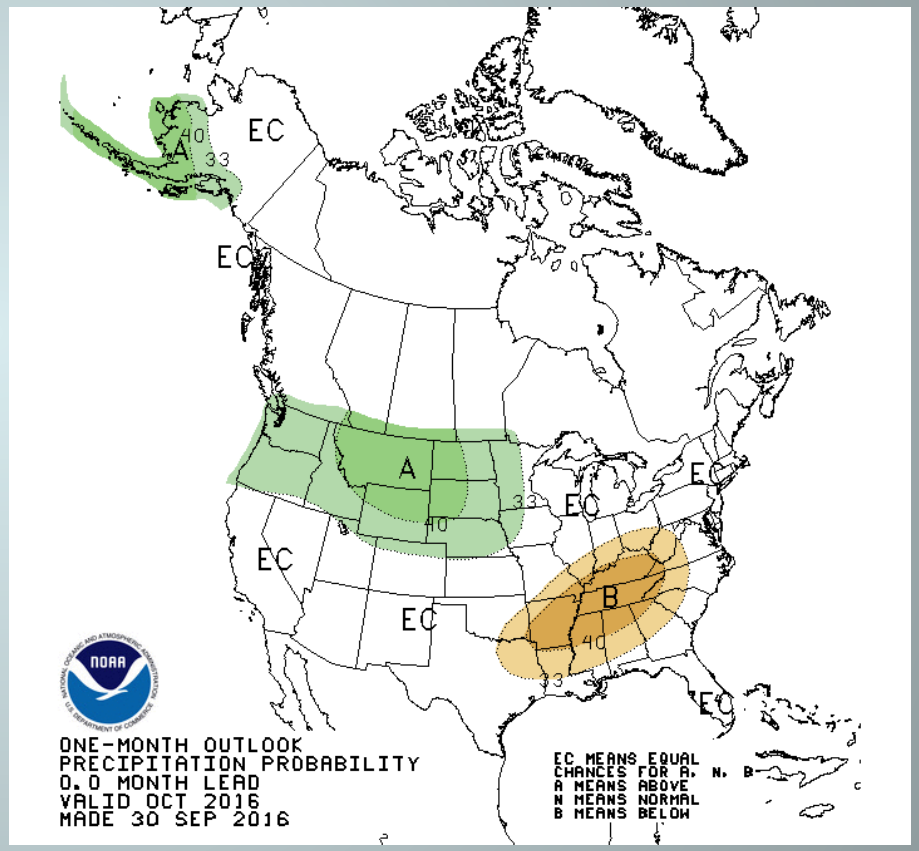


GFS Extended Outlook

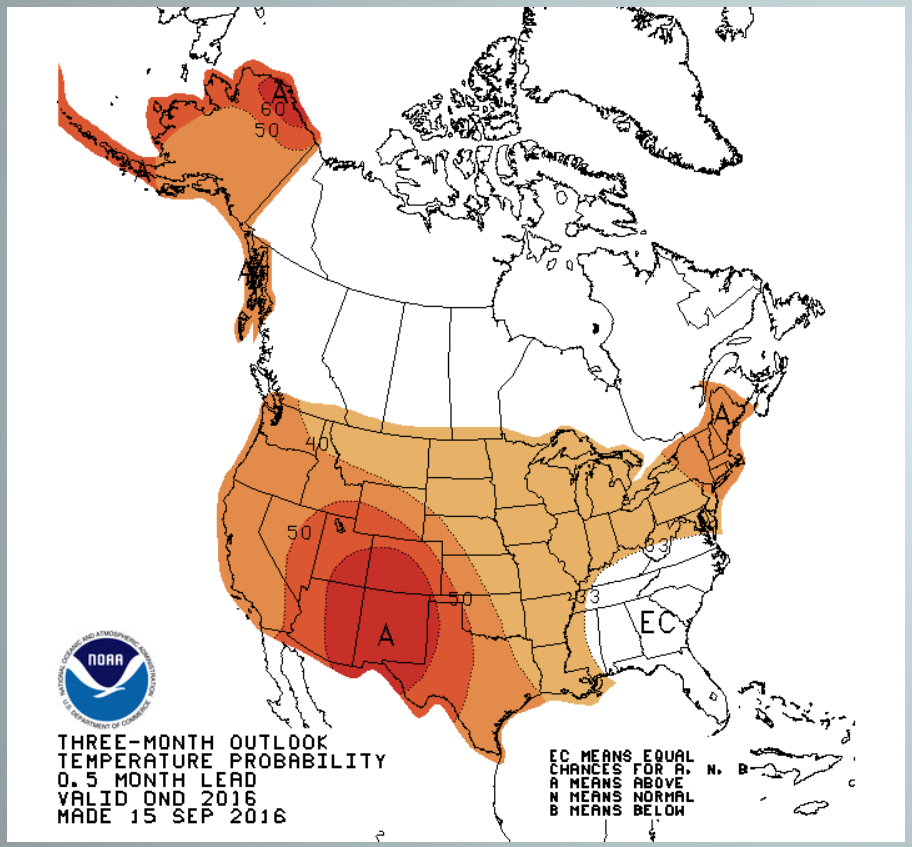


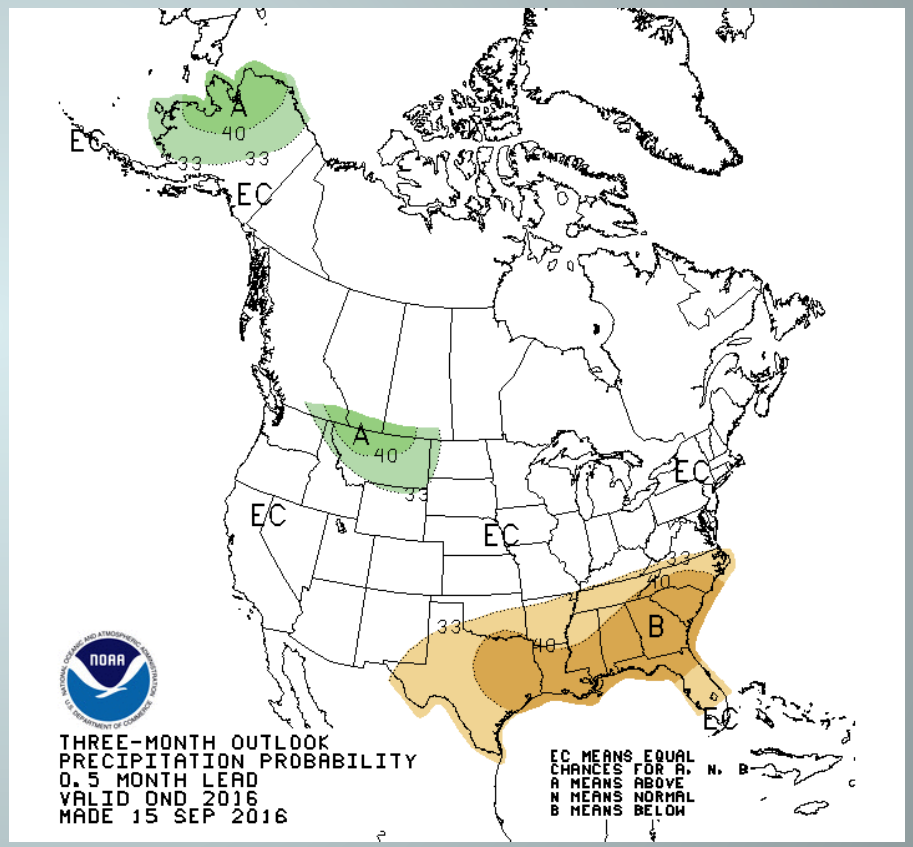
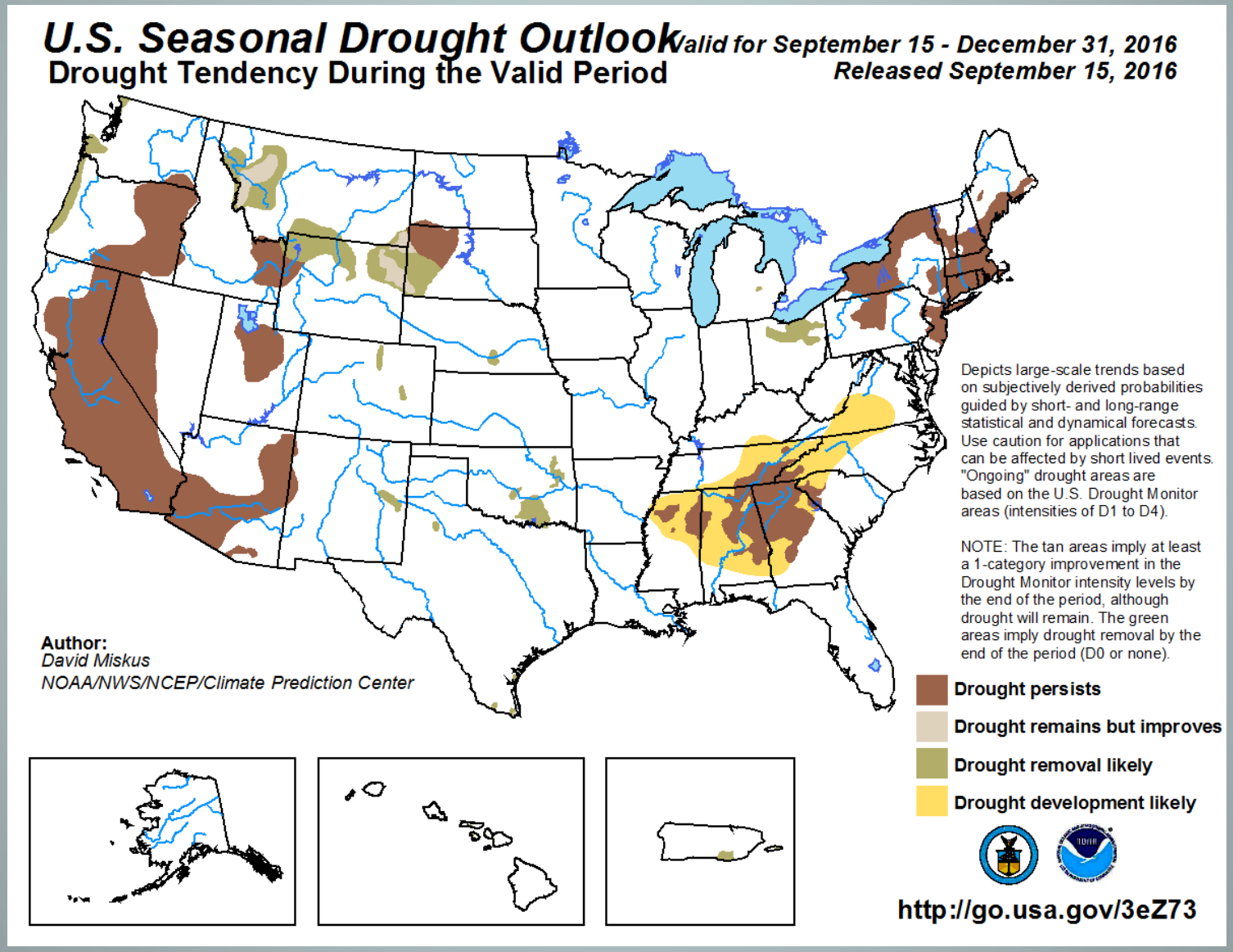
1-Month Outlooks





3-Month Seasonal Outlooks





Seasonal Drought Outlook